

Atty. Dkt. No. 048531-0103

a handshake protocol according to which the first and second transceiver units operate, which causes the transceiver units to continuously attempt to exchange addresses by one broadcasting its address and by the other responding with its own address;

said first and second transceiver units, following the successful exchange of addresses, placing themselves into a data communications mode where each communicates exclusively with the other and where said first and second units remain in said data communications mode indefinitely; and

said units thereafter wirelessly transferring data in the form of addressed data packets, and also transferring addressed acknowledgements of receipt of such data packets, to transfer data between said source and said sink.

21 54. (New) A method for establishing a wireless linkage between a source and a sink for information comprising the steps of:

placing the source and the sink into a linkage mode where each is seeking out a linkage partner;

while both are in the linkage mode, causing the source and sink to continuously attempt to exchange addresses to link;

having said source and sink, following a successful link by address exchange, switch into a data communications mode where each communicates by address exclusively with the other and where said source and said sink then remain in said data communications mode indefinitely; and

while both are in the communications mode, having the source send addressed data packets to the sink, and having the sink return addressed acknowledgements of packet receipts.

55. (New) A wireless link comprising:

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first and second transceiver units each unit having a linkage mode and a data communications mode;

a handshake protocol within each unit placed into operation when the unit is in the linkage mode which enables one of a pair of such units to broadcast its address and which enables the other of the pair of such units to capture the broadcast address and to return its own address, the successful exchange of addresses causing the units to enter the data communication mode; and

a data exchange protocol within each pair of units for use in the data communication mode, which causes them to send packetized, addressed, error detectable data packets via radio to the other unit, receive such addressed packetized data, check the data for errors, and acknowledge an accurate transmission by sending a return-addressed acknowledgement packet to the other unit.

56. (New) A wireless communication link for a device to allow the device to communicate with another device having an associated address comprising:

a transceiver having an associated address;

a handshake protocol according to which the transceiver operates to link to another device wherein the transceiver and other device exchange their addresses to become linked to one another; and

a data exchange protocol according to which the transceiver operates after becoming linked to the other device wherein the transceiver transmits an addressed data packet and receives an acknowledgement of receipt of the transmitted data packet or the transceiver receives an addressed data packet and transmits an acknowledgement of receipt of the received data packet.

57. (New) A wireless communication link as recited in claim 56 wherein said transceiver is a modular unit connectable to a printer to allow the printer to communicate wirelessly with the other device.